



CALPEEK

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CRP's FALL CONVENTION: REPUBLICANS SEE A BIG WIN IN 1994 — WITH WILSON & PROP. 184 LEADING.

Editor's note: CALPEEK attended the CRP's Fall convention in San Diego Sept. 16-18. Here is our brief report & analysis...

...With 43 days to go before the Nov. 8th CA election, practically all GOP delegates attending the CRP's Fall convention see a marvelous opportunity to reverse those terrible Republican losses of 1992 and clean house on the Demos this year. And convention delegates were in an *upbeat & unified mood* as they listened to Gov. Pete Wilson and others bash Pres. Bill Clinton, Kathleen Brown and many of her Demo running mates --- and pledge support for Prop. 187, the Save Our State initiative which bars health, education and welfare benefits to illegal immigrants...

...Republicans haven't been this confident in a long time and it's mainly due to 3 factors: Pres. Clinton's popularity has dropped in many areas of Calif.; Gov. Wilson's rebounding poll numbers --- a 9-pt. lead over Brown among *likely voters* in the latest L.A. Times survey; and Prop. 187. In fact, some sources think Wilson's lead over Brown is due almost entirely to his early stand and TV ads against illegal immigration --- and has little to do with *crime* or other issues. At the convention Wilson finally gave his full endorsement to SOS...

...Just how big is Prop. 187 to GOP plans? With Brown and many Demos opposing 187, just about every Statewide GOP candidate plans to tie into SOS, because illegal immigration may have overtaken crime as the #1 issue in this 1994 election cycle. Controller candidate Tom McClintock pledged to stop paying illegals on the first day he takes office, while Sec. of State candidate Bill Jones plans to make *voter fraud* by illegals into a major TV ad campaign. But it was AG Dan Lungren who grabbed the spotlight when he said

U.S. Atty. Gen. Janet Reno could arrest 1,200 illegal alien ex-cons *right now*; all she had to do was call his office. When illegals are released from CA prisons they are deported south. But most are back in the U.S. within days. What's the hurry? They want to report to their CA parole officers, so they won't be in violation of their parole from prison. Lungren says he's got photos, names and addresses. Incredible!!!

...The consensus among political reporters covering the CRP convention was that the White House political operation must be "*brain dead*" not to have foreseen the political fallout from Prop. 187. In a too little/too late move, AG Reno announced **Operation Gatekeeper** - a plan to redeploy border guards from checkpoints at San Clemente & Temecula to the Mexican Border. But before the redeployment, there is supposed to be a study. In other words, more delay. The NO on 187 Cmt. must be asking why this wasn't done months ago? Had the redeployment taken place in April, it's possible that the flow of illegals could have been slowed enough to defuse this hot political issue. Stay tuned...

CENTRAL VALLEY IS THE HOT SPOT FOR 1994.

Editor's note: Calif.'s Central Valley is perhaps the top battleground in this 1994 election cycle. And it's here where Republicans hope to make some big gains at the expense of the Demos. This week we will hit the 19th C.D. (update); the 12th & 16th SDs; and the 25th & 30th ADs. We'll catch other Central Valley races in a later issue...

● **19th C.D.** - This is the district of U.S. Rep. Richard Lehman(D). In previous issues, we've mentioned that Lehman is regarded as one of the most vulnerable Demos in the U.S. (he ranks #12 on Roll Call Newspaper's list of 25). The numbers in this district

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are just terrible for a Demo --- 46%(D) vs. 43%(R). Bill Clinton & Kathleen Brown are *persona non grata*, which is why Lehman's GOP challenger, George Radanovich, keeps urging The President to come to the 19th C.D. to campaign. While Radanovich made some ink on this, little else has gone smoothly in the last month or so. In late August Radanovich's savvy TV consultants, Powell & Weber (who guided him to an upset primary win) left the campaign, citing differences. Consultant Carlos Rodriguez is now aboard. And other sources (mostly Demo) say Radanovich is having big money problems. And the Fresno BEE recently hit Radanovich for *flip-flopping* on issues. As for Lehman, he's up on TV and money is not a problem. Despite all this, CALPEEK still rates this race as a *toss up* because of Clinton, Brown and the bad registration numbers. But if leans, it's in Lehman's direction because unlike '92, he's wide awake and running scared...

- **16th S.D.** - In 1993, Demo registration stood at 60.1%. Today it's down to 57.55%, while GOP registration numbers are up to 31.97% from around 29.3% a year ago. Incumbent conservative State Sen. Phil Wyman is in the race of his life against Demo Assemblyman Jim Costa. Last year both met in a special election --- and Wyman won, but the district was very different and had a GOP registration edge. About half this district is *new turf* for Wyman and most insiders continue to say that it will be a big upset if Wyman wins. Money should not be a problem for either, because this is a high profile battle for both sides and neither GOP Senate Leader Ken Maddy (and Sen. Rob Hurtt) or Demo Leader Bill Lockyer can afford to lose here. Costa banks on his co-authorship of "3 Strikes," wide support from law & order and even some GOP cross-over support, such as from rancher John Harris, who is Gov. Wilson's campaign co-chair. In the past, Costa has had a tendency to open mouth/insert foot on stupid things that get bad press. He recently *flip flopped* on Prop. 187. He was against it, now he's neutral, but you can't tell from his confusing statement. If Costa stays trouble-free, the Demos may pick up this seat...

- **30th A.D.** - Nested within the 16th S.D. is the 30th A.D. - an open seat now represented by Costa. Costa's district COS Bryn Allison Batrich is up against popular Fresno Councilman Brian Setencich(R) in what may be an interesting fight. The district has a 54.58% Demo vs. 34.67% GOP registration, meaning that if you only count numbers, Batrich should win. But again, Clinton

and Brown don't help here. Batrich is a moderate Demo who has lots of law & order support. Like Costa, she too has backing from John Harris. She's on TV and her campaign is gearing up for a strong GOTV effort. Setencich, on the other hand, has problems. His campaign was inactive most of the summer, with primary mgr. Mark Jackson going back to his old job at the Metronews. Enter Allied Business PAC and the GOP Assembly Caucus with a promise to help and supply savvy consultant Steve Presson. The relationship lasted about 2 weeks and then Setencich told Allied & the GOP Caucus to get out. Jackson is back in charge, but it sounds like he's got lots of work to do to get Setencich even with Batrich...

- **12th S.D.** - This district is represented by Demo State Sen. Dan McCorquodale, who for the 1st time is running in a district devoid of his native/home turf of Santa Clara Co. This Stanislaus/Madera/San Joaquin district is one of the most competitive seats in Calif., with a 50% Demo vs. 39% GOP registration. Retired ag-businessman Dick Monteith is McC's GOP challenger. Neither Monteith nor McC had a primary battle, so Monteith is sitting with very low name ID and not much money. Demos will continue to monitor this contest closely, but it leans toward McCorquodale unless Republicans pump in some big bucks...

- **25th A.D.** - Nested inside the 12th S.D. is the district represented by Demo Assemblywoman Margaret Snyder of Modesto, who is on our *watch list* and she's a possible target of GOP Assembly Leader Jim Brulte. The GOP candidate is retired CHPer/farmer George House of Hughson, who is a school board member. The district has a 47.59% Demo vs. 41.39% GOP registration, meaning it's very competitive -- and registration drives for both sides are ongoing. Synder's VBM program is all set, as is her mail. Neither candidate had primary challengers, but House actually got more votes than Snyder. CALPEEK is not aware of any polling that has been disclosed, but it's likely that Clinton & Brown are drags on other Demos in this area. As for money, that's House's weak spot. Allied Business PAC has indicated they'll help, but so far -- zip. Stay tuned..

HUFFINGTON & THE PRESS: SNUBS, FLUBS & HITS.

Editor's note: When he began his U.S. Senate campaign 8 months after taking office as a freshman in the 103rd Congress, GOP candidate Michael Huffington got fairly decent coverage. But as the months have passed, that coverage has turned negative. Here's CALPEEK's report & analysis...

...Demo political consultant Bob Shrum says this race between U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein and Huffington will be a test to see if a **paid media campaign** can completely obliterate **free news media coverage** -- most of which has been negative. Some sources believe that negative news media coverage can swing a close election by 2 to 3 points. DiFi leads Huffington among *likely voters* in the current L.A. Times poll by a margin of 49% to 43%...

...There are sources who think Huffington just *doesn't care* what the news media says. Some evidence of this surfaced at the recent CRP Convention, where Huffington scheduled a "**by invitation only**" news conference. When reporters told him to admit everyone or those already there would walk, Huffington blinked...

...Where & when did the negative press start? There is no doubt that Huffington's trouble started in his own home district. It began with his announced plans to run for the senate and has not abated. This spring the Santa Barbara News Press broke the story about Huffington's refusal to help Raytheon's plant in Goleta. The Santa Barbara Independent has been just as aggressive and refers to Huffington as "**the alleged congressman**." On 8/31, News Press columnist Barney Brantingham attacked Huffington's welfare proposal, noting, "While Arianna and Michael Huffington whine about getting the government off the people's back, their politically incorrect charity (Santa Barbara Partnership for Children) is getting a \$3,745 subsidy from county taxpayers." This column is **must reading**...

...While Huffington's relationship with his 2 hometown newspapers is lousy, it's sweetness compared to the **open warfare** that he's waged with the S.F. Chronicle's editorial page. The Chron blasted a Huffington TV ad about DiFi's immigration policy (when she was mayor). Huffington demanded a retraction - the Chron said stuff it. Huffington has run 3 full page ads (\$40,000) attacking the Chron's editorial staff. His relationship with the

S.F. Examiner is about to go south because the SFEx recently said Huffington should release his tax returns and noted that CA voters won't elect a "Jay Gatsby." Tax returns are a sore point with Huffington. Shortly after the primary, he told a news conference in Fresno that he'd **never** release that info. Sources think there will be more bad press on this subject...

...In late summer, the now famous Wall Street Journal article appeared and there's no way to spin this story as positive. It said Huffington's success in business was due to his dad's efforts. Then on Sept. 19 & 20, The AP published a 2-part story that again is not flattering and goes even further and is much more negative than the WSJ story. Huffington also has received negative press about his votes on *choice*, his flip flop on the *crime bill* and his welfare proposal...

...Now for the *flubs*. Or open mouth/insert foot. While campaigning in the Central Valley, Huffington hit DiFi for her 1990 support of Big Green (Prop. 120). The flub: Huffington was on the BoD of the Natural Resources Defense Council and they were major supporters of #120. In the Central Valley, this was *big news*. Although it hasn't gotten much attention, the most recent flub was at the CRP convention during his Candidate's Forum speech, when Huffington urged delegates to support the "3 Strikes" initiative. He's a co-sponsor (he gave more than \$100,000 to help 184 qualify), but he didn't know that in order to change the law (or the initiative), it required a 2/3rds vote of the legislature. Not too swift. Stay tuned...

DA UPDATE: SACTO HOT, SAN DIEGO LUKE WARM.

Editor's note: Of the five DA runoff battles remaining, most of the action has centered on Sacramento and San Diego. Here's a brief update...

- **Sacramento** - Most, but not all CALPEEK sources think that with 43 days to go, Deputy DA Jan Scully is a slight favorite to defeat her boss, Sacto Co. DA Steve White. There's nothing specific that sources point to, only the general perception White is in trouble. White got 34% of the primary vote to Scully's 33% --- and both of the other challengers, former DA John Dougherty and Dep. DA Dave Druliner, have now endorsed Scully. And sources think that most of the Dougherty and Druliner supporters will now vote for Scully. Scully also is getting benefit from her support of "3

Strikes," while White has not responded to requests from the committee supporting passage of this measure to state his position on Prop. 184. FYI: A recent Sacto BEE story with the headline, "*Prosecutors accuse DA of using clout to aid donor*," has not helped White. The story itself is not as bad as the headline, but it's the kind of negative publicity you don't need when you're in a tough election...

- **San Diego** - The pace of this runoff is somewhat *slow* --- notwithstanding the fact that Muni Court Judge/DA candidate Larry Stirling was ticketed for going 90 mphs. Lead-foot Larry got *traffic school* (somewhat unusual) and the story did make the papers and TV. Stirling's opponent, former DA/now attorney Paul Pfingst, has picked up just about every law & order endorsement in the county (he also won the backing of the San Diego Union-Tribune). Stirling sued Pfingst over his ballot statement (Pfingst used his campaign slogan - *A prosecutor, not a politician*), but the judge hearing the case threw out Stirling's complaint. Insiders lean toward Pfingst. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S ETCETERA: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few political items worth noting...

- **The Life of Reilly** - A long-awaited feature story about Demo political consultant Clint Reilly is due to hit Sunday, Oct. 2 in the L.A. Times Magazine. Written by political reporter Amy Wallace, sources say the story includes *the good, the bad and the ugly*...

- **Open Primary on 1996 Ballot** - An initiative statute allowing Demos to vote for Republicans and vice versa in primaries has qualified for the March 1996 ballot. The official title is "Elections. Open Primary." Both CDP and CRP officials are *strongly opposed*. The folks who love the open primary are the *moderate Republicans*. There aren't enough moderates most of the time to win in tough GOP primaries, but if Demos are allowed to "cross over" in an open primary, then moderates will have a better chance of winning. Examples: Herschensohn vs. Campbell (1992) and Dornan vs. Ryan (1992)...

- **Newsweek's Periscope Scoop** - The Sept. 19th issue of Newsweek has an interesting item in the Periscope section about Mrs. Arianna Huffington (wife of

senate candidate Michael) and *new-age* religious guru John-Roger and his Church of the Movement of Spiritual Inner Awareness. Newsweek says Mrs. H admitted last month that she had been an ordained minister in MSIA, but now says she *hasn't* belonged to MSIA for several years. According to Newsweek sources, some of this may come out in a new book by Peter McWilliams called "Life 102." McWilliams and John-Roger are not on the best of terms these days, sources say, but in the past McW and J-R wrote several self-help books together --- some of which made the NY Times best seller list. What will McWilliams new book say? The book is supposed to be released sometime in the next few weeks so we may have an *October Surprise*...

CASPAR WEINBERGER DISCUSSES FOREIGN POLICY.

Former U.S. Defense Sec. Caspar Weinberger will discuss "Foreign Policy & The Clinton Admin.," 11:45 a.m., Sept. 28, Hilton Hotel, S.F. The event is co-sponsored by the Commonwealth Club of CA and the S.F. Bond Club. For info (415)597-6705...

NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

- Larry Kaplan has been named L.A. regional area director for U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer, working out of the senator's L.A. office...

- L.A.-based Linda Breakstone has jumped from KABC-TV to KCBS-TV, where she will be the political editor/reporter...

- The Junior Statesmen Foundation has moved to 60 E. 3rd Avenue, Ste. 320, San Mateo, CA 94401. New phone is (415)347-1600 and (800)334-5353...

- L.A.-based Cordoba Corp. president/ceo George Pla has been named chair of Demo Sen. Art Torres' campaign for Insurance Commissioner...

- The polling firm of Evans/McDonough Co. has moved its office to 764 Gilman St., Berkeley, CA 94710. New phone is (510)559-1776...

- Consultant George Young has moved his office to 4350 Via Dolce, #307, Marina del Rey, CA 90292. Same phone and fax...